

R 2

time at which they are judged. They are dealt with one by one and they receive according to their merits. Do you see the difference? Is the judgment a literal thing? In that each one has his minute or hour or day in court, whatever time is required, or is the judgment simply a matter that God deals with us according to our deserts and that when the time comes we get them? Yes, Mr.---? (Student) Let's look at the Scripture for a minute. Let's look at Revelation 20, and we read in Revelation 20, beginning with v. 11, "I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it." Now is this a literal throne? Is there a real throne? Does a real man sit on the throne, or is it a figurative way of telling us that God is going to deal with us according to our deserts? And the heaven fled away and there was found no place for them. Surely that is a figurative expression, that particular expression. I don't think if you see the throne and a man sits on it, all of a sudden the earth begins to run this way and the heaven begins to run that way. It is a figurative expression for the terrible awfulness of the occasion. Well, now you take the next verse. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened; and another book was opened. Are they real books? Is there real evidence presented, or is it simply a way of saying, "All the facts are known to God and He deals in accordance with them." Which is the book of life and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works, and the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and the grave delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Is this a description of an actual situation where people will stand before the throne and they will feel that now is the time when they are going to be judged and when they will have a chance to say that they deserve, that they were just as good as the next fellow and they deserve to be treated right and then to have it shown to them by what they have done, have the facts brought before them.